Intellectual Output O7
Pilot testing results

FURNITURE NEW EUROPEAN SKILLS 2020
2014-1-ES01-KA202-004883

Erasmus+

Index

Introduction

The aim of the pilot course was to validate the training materials elaborated by the Project Partners as well as the platform used. This evaluation was done by the future users of this training: workers, students and the unemployed.

The material had these training modules:

1. Research and Development Management
2. Material of the Future
3. Design Management
4. Production Management for Competitive Advantage
5. Environmental Management System in the Furniture Sector
6. Marketing of European Furniture
7. New Trends and Markets
8. Manufacturing Intelligence and Community Management

1. Methodology

A survey contained questions and respondents indicated their level of agreement with the statements presented in the questions by selecting a category on a four-point scale. The categories ranged from "totally disagree" to "totally agree". The survey also contained open-ended questions to allow the respondents to provide more information on their responses. Demographic questions such as name, organization name, age, gender, country of origin, etc. were also included. The survey consisted of 11 questions in total[1]. Data were collected in June and July of 2017, and the final sample numbered 83 respondents.

Data collection for this study was conducted with the assistance of all Project Partners. The respondents were also chosen by the Partners and they were: workers (64.3%), students (31.0%) and the unemployed (4.8%) – fig. 1.
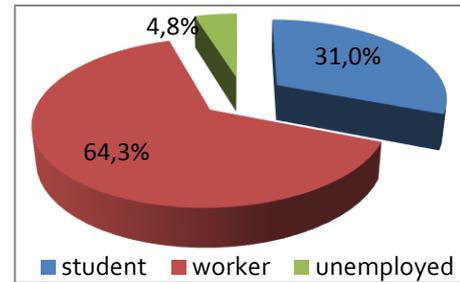

Fig. 1 Type of survey respondents.

In addition, the respondents were asked about their relationship to the wood and furniture sector. Almost 92% of the respondents were in some manner related to the wood and furniture sector – fig. 2.
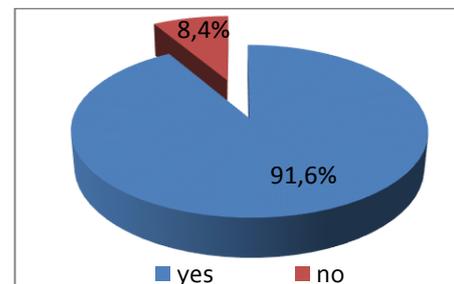

Fig. 2 Relationship to the wood and furniture sector.

2. Results

Question 1: Do you think that this e-learning format is a good tool to achieve the training objectives?

This section presents key findings of the survey regarding the e-learning platform. Major part of the respondents (91.5%) totally agreed or agreed that the e-learning format was a good tool to achieve the training objectives – fig. 3.
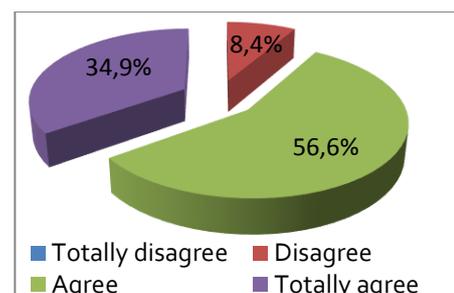

Fig. 3 The e-learning format as a good tool to achieve the training objectives.

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[1] The proposed questionnaire is available in the annex.

Moreover, the respondents motivated their choice with the following answers:
- good idea for saving time,
- modern form of education,
- ease of access,
- the possibility of using at any time,
- useful for it summarizes the most important issues in a schematic way,
- the possibility of learning new working techniques and getting to know new materials, which gives a new impetus to work.

Some respondents also drew the attention to the fact that:
- it's necessary to develop didactic contents,
- this type of course is only for theoretical contents,
- it would be better to have a person who provides feedback,
- there isn't any possibility to ask the questions or take the doubts away.

Question 2: Is the accessibility of the Moodle course "FUNES" easy?

More than half of the respondents (55.4%) totally agreed that the Moodle course "FUNES" was easy accessible – fig. 4. Those respondents mainly claimed that the software was friendly, it wasn't difficult to find it, and that it was quite easy to use. About 11% of the respondents disagreed with that statement. They had problems with finding the right module, navigation the structure, the lack of possibility of using mobile devices, and the Spanish language on the title page.
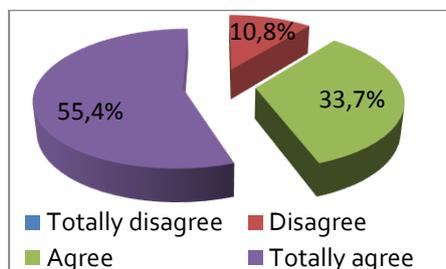
Fig. 4 The ease of accessibility of the Moodle course "FUNES".

Question 3: Do you think that the explained concepts are clear?

More than 83% of the respondents believed that the explained concepts were clear (fig. 5). They also believed that contents were easy to understand by the student, well explained, well classified, and correctly numbered.
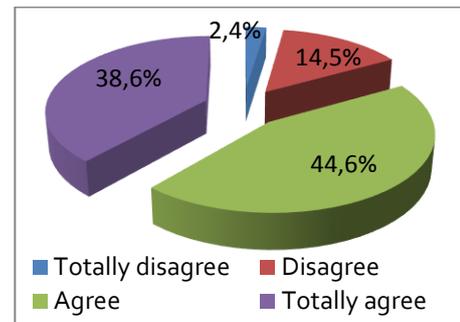
Fig. 5 Clear explainof the concepts.

Almost 17% of the respondents totally disagreed or disagreed with the statement that the concepts were clearly explained. They proposed some improvements to be added: more images, a general index, highlight of the important contents, and elaboration of the content in some concepts.

Question 4: Do you think that the utilization of this training system is handy?

47.6% of the surveyed sample totally agreed that the utilization of this training system was handy. Likewise, 42.7% agreed with that statement (fig. 6). In addition, the respondents presented the opinion that:
- the e-learning system is always useful,
- this system could be a valuable tool for integrating designers' technical knowledge,
- this format is very suitable for employed people who want to gain new skills,
- this system is handy because there is a lot of information at your disposal,
- it is a good system for learning,
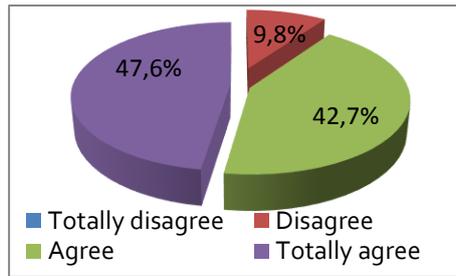- this type of system gives the possibility of accessing videos.

Fig. 6 The usefulness of the training system.

Question 5: Is it the level of difficulty proper for the goals of the course?

85.1% of the respondents totally agreed or agreed that the level of difficulty was proper for the goals of the course, while 14.8% was against this statement – fig. 7.
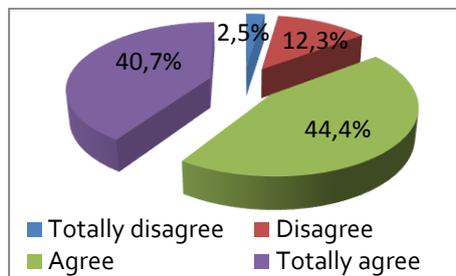

Fig. 7 Adequate level of difficulty proper for the goals of the course.

Moreover, some of the respondents said that the difficulty level was excellent and compatible with the goals of the course. In turn, others observed that the level was basic, there was too much technical information, and some points should have been expanded.

Question 6: Do you think that other information, such as external links, was appropriate?

Almost all the respondents (92.7%) agreed there was a need to add other information, such as external links (fig. 8). In addition, the respondents presented the view that:
- external links are very useful,
- links give the opportunity to disseminate knowledge,
- videos help to understand the concepts,
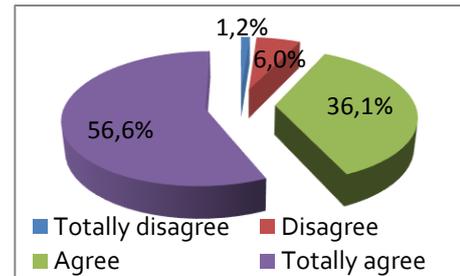- it is easy to find interesting information.

Fig. 8 A need to add other information, such as external links.

Question 7: Do you think that the knowledge acquired will help you on your job position?

Figure 9 shows knowledge acquired during the course and its usefulness on job position. More than 46% of the respondents totally agreed and 29.3% agreed that the knowledge acquired would help them on their job position. The respondents identified the acquired knowledge as useful and helpful. Moreover, one of them stated that the acquired information would make him more professional and specialized. Less than 25% of the respondents rated the acquired knowledge as less relevant to their job position.
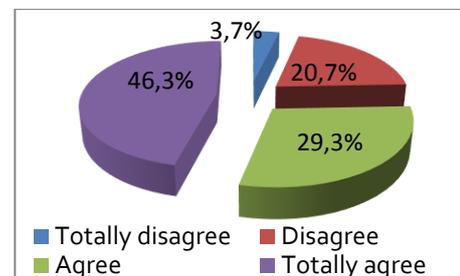
Fig. 9 Knowledge acquired during the course and its usefulness on job position.

Question 8: Do you think you need to go to a classroom-sitting lesson for extending your knowledge of the subject?

¾ of the surveyed respondents felt the need to go to a classroom-sitting lesson in order to extend knowledge of the discussed subject (fig. 10). The respondents stated that the classroom lessons could help to learn more quickly and more efficiently. Moreover, it could

be interesting to have a discussion about the theme with classmates.

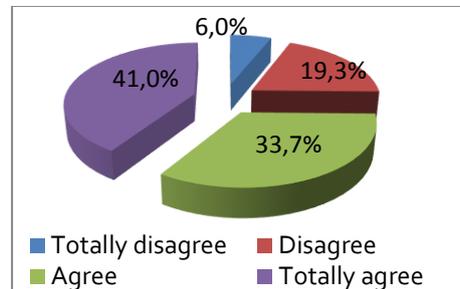The remaining respondents declared that lessons in the classroom would not be necessary (25.3%).

Fig. 10 A need to attend the lessons in the classroom in order to extend knowledge of the discussed subject.

Question 9: Do you believe that the content is sufficient for you or should it be more developed? Which part?

Answering the question about the sufficient content, the respondents stated that the content was sufficient, well developed and complete (34.9% totally agreed and 37.3% agreed – fig. 11). The remaining respondents (27.7%) presented the opinion that some parts should have been more developed and had more sectorial examples.
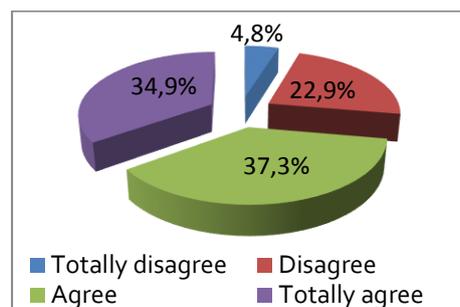

Fig. 11 Properly selected contents of the module.

Improvements, comments and recommendations

Question 10: What do you think should be improved?

The respondents indicated that as regards open questions the following elements should be improved:

- the way of download training units,
- the layout of the document,
- a table of contents should be added,
- there should be more illustrative pictures,
- there should be more case studies,
- there should be more real experiences from the furniture industry.

Question 11: Comments, criticisms or recommendations according to your personal point of view:

In addition, the respondents added some comments from their personal point of view:

- a self-evaluation test should be included,
- a glossary of terms should be added,
- examples related to the wood sector should be added,
- graphics should be improved and made more attractive.

Summary:

Based on those results, it can be said that prepared training materials have fulfilled their purpose. The respondents identified them as a useful tool for acquiring and expanding knowledge. The content of the materials was carefully prepared, although the respondents would like to have more illustrations, photos, and charts to make the materials more attractive visually. The tool used as a form of an e-learning platform fulfilled its task. The access to it was easy and its use was intuitive.

3. Annex

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FUNES: Questionnaire for participants in the pilot course

This questionnaire is to evaluate the learning material elaborated. Please try to answer each question as clearly as possible; your comments are very important in developing the course according to the needs of the sector. Thank you for your cooperation and contribution!

Name and surname	
Organization/ VET Centre / Company	
Language	
Country	
Job position	
Where you did you carry out this pilot test? (VET Centre / Company / At home)	
Beginning and end date of the pilot test	
Phone	
Age	

Please, answer these questions, considering the scale level from 1 to 4 (1: Totally disagree; 4: Totally agree)

		1	2	3	4	Why? (Please, explain your answer)
1	Do you think that this e-learning format is a good tool to achieve the training objectives?					
2	Is the accessibility to the Moodle course "FUNES" easy?					
3	Do you think that the explained concepts are clear?					
4	Do you think that the utilization of this training system is handy?					
5	Is it the level of difficulty proper to the goals of the course?					
6	Do you think that other information, such as external links, are appropriated?					
7	Do you think that knowledge acquired will help you in your job position?					
8	Do you think you need to go to a classroom-setting lesson for					

	extending your knowledge on the subject?					
9	Do you believe that the content is sufficient for you or should it be more developed? What part?					

10	What do you think that should be improved?

11	Comments, criticisms or recommendations according to your personal point of view:

Thank you for your contribution and collaboration!

Funes

www.funesproject.eu